BLACKWATER CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

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Date: March 2003

Blackwater Creek Ecological Reserve
Purpose Statement

The Blackwater Creek Ecological Reserve is located between Blackwater Creek and Williston Lake, 43 km northwest of Mackenzie. The ecological reserve is 234 ha in size, and protects a site for research on sub-boreal forest types on a poor site, adjacent bogland, and intermediate vegetation types.

The ecological reserve is located on a flat outwash plain about 15 km west of the Parsnip Reach of Williston Lake. It encompasses the southern end of a huge treeless bog. Access is available via logging roads which pass within 1 km of the ecological reserve.

The ecological reserve contains extensive, dense, coniferous forest stands, open bogland, and transitional areas in which tree islands give a parkland appearance. Upland forests are dominated by lodgepole pine, white spruce or black spruce, with some trembling aspen and balsam poplar. Three treeless bog communities are also included, all dominated by scrub birch and mosses.

Primary Role
The primary role of Blackwater Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect a site for research on sub-boreal forest types on a poor site, adjacent bogland, and intermediate vegetation types.

Known Management Issues	Response
Boundary assessment	Boundary modification to the east to align with an existing Forest Service road is being reviewed with Ministry of Forests. This boundary modification may proceed in Spring 2003.
No Ecological Reserve Warden	Attempt to recruit a warden

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection — Contributes minimally to the representation of the very poorly represented Parsnip Trench Ecosection (2.67%); the ecological reserve is one of only 6 protected areas in this ecosection and contributes 2.18% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant — Contributes minimally to the representation of the poorly represented SBS mk2 (3.70%); the ecological reserve contributes 2.35% of the overall protected area representation of this variant.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values	X	unknown
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	Forest growth in poor conditions

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry — X Nature appreciation opportunities
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Forest/bog ecology

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs	X	One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and education purposes across the province.
Co-operative Management	X	Ducks Unlimited project to the southeast of the

Arrangements	Ecological Reserve.
Partnerships	No Ecological Reserve Warden
Vulnerability	The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as highly significant. No stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve.
Relationship to Other Strategies	

Area: 234 hectares

Date of establishment: December 4, 1975.